

is to work in concert with the executive branch and pass the line-item veto.

And for those of you who are here, who are helping us get that legislation out of the Senate, I want to thank you for your work. The reason I brought it up is, I am absolutely convinced it is necessary to make sure that we continue to maintain budget discipline here in Washington, DC.

We've made good progress, as I mentioned to you, in getting the fiscal house in order, but there's another problem with our budget, and that has to do with mandatory spending, particularly with Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. These are really important programs. They're called entitlement programs because when each of us retire, we're entitled to a benefit, in Social Security for example.

And yet the health of these programs—the health is in serious jeopardy. Why? Because there's a lot of people like me and Paulson who are fixing to retire. [Laughter] As a matter of fact, both of us reach retirement age at the same time, which is in 2008. That's quite convenient in my case. [Laughter]

But unlike the previous generation, there's a lot more of us, and we've been promised greater benefits than the previous generation. In other words, the Government has made promises with a future generation's money that we can't keep. And so the fundamental question facing the Government in Washington, DC, is, will we have the will necessary to deal with these entitlement programs to leave behind a better budget picture, to deal with the unfunded liabilities and the mandatory programs for future generations?

One reason Secretary Paulson came to work in this administration is because he wanted to understand whether or not we were committed to continue trying to bring Social Security reform, to modernize the system. Look, you don't have to cut benefits. You've just got to slow the rate at which benefits are growing in order to make sure a future generation is not strapped with a budgetary system that is unaffordable.

And I assured Hank that I was deeply committed to working to solve Social Security, because I believe the call for those of us who

are blessed to be in public service is to confront problems now. It's so much easier to quit and just say, "Let's let another Congress deal with it." The problem is, is that the longer we wait, the more costly it becomes for future Congresses. And so now is the time. Now is the time. And Hank and I are going to—after these elections come and go, we're going to work with the leaders and—to say, "We're all responsible for getting something done." My hope is, in the last 2 years of this administration, we can set aside needless politics and focus on what's right for the United States of America and solve these entitlement programs once and for all.

I hope you're optimistic about this country's future, because I sure am. I am optimistic because I have great faith in American ingenuity, and I know how hard our people work. I am optimistic because we're an innovative society, and there's a lot of really capable, smart people continuing to make sure we remain innovative. I'm optimistic because the public sector and private sector encourages important research and development to make sure America is on the leading edge of change. I'm optimistic that we have put good policy in place that will encourage the entrepreneurial spirit. And I firmly believe, so long as this is an entrepreneurial-oriented country, America will remain the economic leader we want her to be.

I want to thank you all for coming to hear this proclamation of good news. [Laughter] God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to H.R. 4890, the "Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006."

Proclamation 8066—General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2006

October 11, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

On General Pulaski Memorial Day, we remember Casimir Pulaski, a Polish-born hero of the American Revolution who fought and

died for the freedom and independence our country enjoys today.

General Casimir Pulaski entered into a campaign against tyranny in Poland in 1768, bravely fighting for the freedom of his native land. This patriotic spirit and thirst for freedom remained with Pulaski throughout his life and influenced his success in the American Revolutionary War. After meeting Benjamin Franklin in Paris, Pulaski traveled to America to join forces with General George Washington and assist in the fight for American independence. He was quickly commissioned as a Brigadier General and demonstrated such skill on the battlefield that he became known as the “Father of the American Cavalry.” In 1779, General Pulaski was mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah. By giving his life for our country, General Pulaski inspired many Americans and helped ensure a future of freedom for our citizens.

Through his service and dedication to liberty, General Pulaski demonstrated the strong will and patriotism that made our freedom possible, and the ties between the United States and Poland are strengthened by these common values. On General Pulaski Memorial Day, we honor the courage and sacrifice of this great hero of the American Revolution, recognize the many contributions of Polish Americans to our country, and celebrate the lasting friendship between our two great nations.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2006, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities honoring General Casimir Pulaski and all those who defend our freedom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:46 a.m., October 12, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 13.

Proclamation 8067—To Modify Rules of Origin Under the North American Free Trade Agreement

October 11, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Presidential Proclamation 6641 of December 15, 1993, implemented the North American Free Trade Agreement (the “NAFTA”) with respect to the United States and, pursuant to the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 103–182) (the “NAFTA Implementation Act”), incorporated in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (the “HTS”) the tariff modifications and rules of origin necessary or appropriate to carry out the NAFTA.

2. Section 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332) provides rules for determining whether goods imported into the United States originate in the territory of a NAFTA party and thus are eligible for the tariff and other treatment contemplated under the NAFTA. Section 202(q) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332(q)) authorizes the President to proclaim, as a part of the HTS, the rules of origin set out in the NAFTA and to proclaim modifications to such previously proclaimed rules of origin, subject to the consultation and lay-over requirements of section 103(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3313(a)).

3. The United States, Canada, and Mexico have agreed to modifications to certain NAFTA rules of origin. Modifications to the NAFTA rules of origin reflected in general note 12 to the HTS are therefore necessary.

4. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder,